EDMONDSON • GERADS

THE PUNISHER®

NITH

ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

FRANK CASTLE was once a decorated Marine officer, an upstanding citizen and family man. Then his family was violently taken from him when they were accidentally killed in a mob hit. From that day on, Frank Castle shed his old identity and became a force of cold, calculated retribution and vigilantism known as

THE PUNISHER

PREVIOUSLY

At the end of the Punisher's war against the Dos Soles, Frank was shot in the chest by the new Howling Commandos. While attempting to discreetly seek medical attention south of the border, he was captured by "El Diablito" Ortiz, a South American crime lord who decided to sell him to the highest bidder--a buyer who sent the mercenary Crossbones to collect the Punisher.

With the help of a Special Forces soldier also captured by El Diablito's men, Frank nearly escaped. But when they became boxed in by the bad guys, Frank sacrificed himself so the soldier could escape by allowing Crossbones to take him captive.

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And for the rest of the story, read BLACK WIDOW #9, on sale now!

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

"ADAM. THANK YOU FOR COMING IN."

VISITOR
ADAM TORCHIA
GUEST OF:
SEN. JACKSON

REPORT.

FRANK CASTLE. TARGET SHOT BY NAVESKE .308 CUSTOM RIFLE ON BUS ROOFTOP, LOS ANGELES, THREE DAYS AGO.

POSITIVE I.D. ON BLOOD SPLATTER.

BODY?

UNKNOWN.

WE HAVE MONITORED POLICE REPORTS. DUE TO CALIBER OF RIFLE, LOCATION OF HIT, SURVIVAL WAS NOT LIKELY.

THAT WOULD BE MY GUESS.

SO YOU THINK HE'S ROTTING IN A SEWER SOMEWHERE?

BUT YOU HAVE NO *BODY*.

THAT IS CORRECT.

THEN HE'S NOT DEAD.

WE ASKED FOR DEAD, SERGEANT. NOT *LIKELY* DEAD.

YOU DO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE, DON'T YOU?

OR ARE THE HOWLIN' COMMANDOS *HIGHLY* OVERRATED?

WE HAVE NOT CEASED OUR EFFORTS, MR. SECRETARY.

VISITOR

WHAT IS THIS?

THINK OF IT LIKE A DUCK CALL.

FRANK CASTLE DOES HAVE *SOME* FAMILY LEFT.

I NEED BETTER FRIENDS.

BAY DOOR OPEN. BE READY, SQUAD. T-MINUS ONE MINUTE.

WE EXPECTING ANY RESISTANCE, CROSSBONES?

WE *ALWAYS* EXPECT RESISTANCE.

BE PREPARED TO--

SNAP

KPOW

LOOK OUT! CASTLE'S--

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

SORRY, BOSS, HE--

AND BETTER VACATION PLANNING.

SHOULD WE GO AFTER CASTLE?

WE DO THE JOB WE'VE BEEN ORDERED TO DO...

I WANT THIS SHIP ARMED TO BLOW IN UNDER FIVE MINUTES. GOT IT?

WE DON'T WANT THEM TO THINK WE'VE FAILED. YOU KNOW THEY ALWAYS HAVE BACKUPS.

CASTLE IS SECONDARY...

CROSSBONES, THIS IS NUMBER 2. SETTING THE DEVICE...

SYNCING NOW.

1:30

I--

WHAM

I APPRECIATE CROSSBONES GETTING ME AWAY FROM MOSQUITO VALLEY...

BUT A RUSTY SHIP ISN'T THE NICKEL DINER.

KPOW

BUT MY BIGGEST COMPLAINT RIGHT NOW...

THE CROWDS.

KPOW

WHICH I'LL DEAL WITH, BECAUSE I PREFER TO SPEND MY VACATIONS ALONE...

...COMPLETELY ALONE.

BLACK WIDOW?

WHY ARE YOU HERE, PUNISHER? I HEARD YOU WERE IN L.A. TOOK UP ACTING OR SOMETHING.

I HITCHED A RIDE WITH CROSSBONES AND HIS BOYS...

...MOST OF WHOM ARE DEAD.

I HAVE OTHERS.

THEY'VE PLANTED TIMED EXPLOSIVES ALL OVER THE SHIP.

I COULDN'T FIND THEM ALL. WE'RE LOOKING AT FOUR MINUTES AND ABOUT...FIFTEEN SECONDS.

I NEED INFORMATION. I NEED TO FIND SOMETHING--

04:15

HAVE FUN. I HOPE YOU CAN SWIM.

GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES.

I'M NOT HERE FOR WHATEVER YOU'RE HERE FOR.

AND BESIDES, THERE'S STILL A COUPLE OF SKULL SQUAD GOONS HANGING AROUND SOMEWHERE.

JUST GIVE ME THREE MINUTES!

3:59

03:42

AND THIS IS WHY I DON'T LIKE COMPANY.

I'M ASSUMING YOU WERE ON A BUDGET WHEN YOU HIRED THESE GUYS.

COMPANY COMPLICATES.

THAT'S WHY I HIRE SO MANY OF THEM.

DO YOU HAVE EYES ON THE BOSS?

NO...

WELL, DON'T SHOOT HIM IN THE DARK.

3:12

WHERE THE HELL IS THE PUNISHER?

GOT HIM.

OH, YOU GOT HIM? IDIOT.

2:19

WHERE THE HELL'D HE--

POW POW POW

OH, NO! STOP! STOP!

HE'S A MADMAN!

I CAN SEE MY OWN GUTS!

CHEAP LABOR.

1:31

BANG

1:11

YOU'RE OUT OF TIME, AVENGER!

1:05

A BULLET TO THE KNEECAP, I THINK, WILL MAKE CLEAR WHICH--

KPOW

NO.

HEY!

0:59

I NEED ANSWERS. I NEED TO KNOW--

HE DOESN'T HAVE THEM. I'VE BEATEN ENOUGH LIARS TO DEATH TO KNOW. THIS GUY KNOWS NOTHING.

0:51

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST, BUT TAKE IT FROM ME--

DON'T LET YOUR EMOTIONS LEAD THE WAY.

NOW LET'S SPLIT.

0:48

0:39

TIME'S UP.

HELP ME GET HIM INTO THE HELO!

I'M NOT YOUR SHERPA.

0:33

COME ON, SISTER.

TICK, TOCK.

0:31

TICK, TOCK...

0:27

GLAD YOU MADE IT.

0:21

SUICIDAL TENDENCIES.

AND EXTRA WEIGHT.

0:12

0:08

AT LEAST I'M GOING HOME...

0:05

0:03...

...WHERE I ACTUALLY CAN BE ALONE. IT'S BEEN FAR TOO LONG.

HOLD ON!

...0:02

...0:01

00:0

HOME.
I HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS IN LOS ANGELES.
AND A MYSTERY TO SOLVE-- SOMEONE SUPPLIED THE DOS SOLES.
AND AN AVENGER TO DROP OFF TO--

CHAK

...HMMM.

PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE CONSIDERED MY STANDING WITH THE AVENGERS.

YOU WERE WRONG. HE DID KNOW SOMETHING.

I'M GOING TO NEED TO DROP YOU OFF A LITTLE EARLIER THAN EXPECTED.

SOMEONE WAS GOING TO GET THE DROP ON ME.

AGAIN, I MEAN.

THE NEXT DAY.

LOS ANGELES WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

AS MUCH AS I'M NOT A FAN OF L.A....

I HAVE A FEELING I'M GOING TO LIKE THIS CENTRAL AMERICAN PRISON EVEN LESS.

A GRINGO, HUH?

CAUGHT SHOPPING FOR SOME COSTA RICAN DROGAS?

IDIOT.

HOME WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

DAMNED SELF-RIGHTEOUS AVENGERS.